

Graduate Thesis Assessment Rubric
 Department of English, Faculty of Education, University of West Bohemia

Thesis Author: Oxana Dzugkoeva
 Title: Developing Language teaching Materials: A Usability Testing Study

Length: 46 stran

Text Length: 41 stran

Assessment Criteria	Scale	Comments
1. Introduction is well written, brief, interesting, and compelling. It motivates the work and provides a clear statement of the problem. It places the problem in context. It presents and overview of the thesis.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
2. Literature review is comprehensive and complete. It synthesizes a variety of sources and provides context for the research. It shows the author's understanding of the most relevant literature on the subject matter.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
3. The methodology chapter provides clear and thorough description of the research methodology. It discusses why and what methods were chosen for research. The research methodology is appropriate for the identified research questions.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
4. The results/data are analyzed and interpreted effectively. The chapter ties the theory with the findings. It addresses the applications and implications of the research. It discusses strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the research.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
5. The thesis shows critical and analytical thinking about the area of study and the author's expertise in this area.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

6. The text is organized in a logical manner. It flows naturally and is easy to follow. Transitions, summaries and conclusions exist as appropriate. The author demonstrates high quality writing skills and uses standard spelling, grammar, and punctuation.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	
7. The thesis meets the general requirements (formatting, chapters, length, division into sections, etc.). References are cited properly within the text and a complete reference list is provided.	Outstanding Very good Acceptable Somewhat deficient Very deficient	

Final Comments & Questions

Testing of usability of textbooks is a challenging topic for its broad scope. Ms. Dzugkoeva approached this topic very well and showed high degree of effort to literature investigation and research design. I especially value the critical approach to discussing the advantages and limitations of textbook use as well as results of the study itself.

The thesis reads smoothly. Nevertheless, fewer occurrences of bullet points / numbered lists would improve the work. Also, when a strong claim such as "four participants would be enough" is presented (p.38) a source of that claim should be cited. The author mentions the usability testing theory, but more information would be beneficial here.

In any case, the study brings valuable insight into language teaching material design and I suggest that the thesis is awarded an "excellent" grade.

Questions:

How concretely could a good design of a language textbook help in class? Name examples of tasks to illustrate your answer.

What helps you personally to get successfully navigated through a textbook?

Reviewer: Mgr. Barbora Reynaert, Ph.D.

Date: 28. srpna, 2019

